

Wethersfield Advisory Parks and Recreation Board
Harbor Management Commission
Minutes - Thursday, May 28, 2015

The meeting was held at Town Hall and called to order by Chairperson Tom Ragonese at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Tom Ragonese, Bill Leonard, Richard Lepore and Tom Mull. Also present was Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation.

A. Public Comments.

None.

B. Minutes – April 23, 2015.

Bill Leonard moved to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2015 meeting as amended with the following change: Item B. Minutes – should read March 26, 2015 not April 23, 2015. The motion was seconded by Richard Lepore and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report –April 2015.

The Monthly Report was reviewed by board members. Chairperson Ragonese discussed the children's Fishing Derby. Also, Bill Leonard asked the status of the Webb tennis courts. Ms. Bagley reported that the concrete is curing and the contractor will be putting the finishing surface on shortly and will be painting the tennis court lines.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Memorial Day Parade – May 23rd.

Ms. Bagley reported that the parade and ceremony at the cemetery went well and there were many marchers and spectators.

2. Fireworks – co-sponsored with Chamber of Commerce on May 30th at Cove Park (rain date is June 6th).
Chairperson Ragonese noted that the Fireworks will be this weekend in town. Food vendors and a DJ with children's games will begin at 5 p.m. The Fireworks will begin at 9 p.m.

3. Nature Center – 10 Year Anniversary – June 13th – 10 a.m.

Chairperson Ragonese explained that this 10 Year Anniversary is celebrating the Nature Center's move to their current location. It has been 10 years since the renovation of the Moller Home for the Nature Center. The Friends of the Nature Center are sponsoring this anniversary celebration.

E. Old Business.

1. Field Status Update.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to provide board members with an update on the athletic fields in town. She reported that the Parks and Recreation Department had not received any calls with concerns about the athletic fields. Chairperson Ragonese discussed field conditions with board members and all agreed that the month of May had very little rain which allowed all the leagues to get their games in without makeups. Chairperson Ragonese asked if the Lighted Little League Field was aerated as scheduled on May 23. Ms. Bagley confirmed that the work was done on the field that day.

2. Grant's Way Foundation.

Ms. Bagley met with representatives from the Foundation to provide additional information on the process for their project. The first step is to get a ballpark number for the cost of the project. Ms. Bagley has discussed this issue with the Town Engineer and he provided some resources to assist in the development of a cost estimate for the footbridge. Ms. Bagley will pass these resources on to the Foundation members. Once the Foundation has a better idea on costs, their next step will be to approach the Town Council for permission to move forward. The Foundation will be holding a softball fundraiser in Mill Woods Park in June.

3. Webb Tennis Courts.

As stated earlier the concrete is curing and the contractor will be putting the finishing surface on shortly and will be painting the tennis court lines.

4. Skate Park Repair.

Ms. Bagley informed the board that all the concrete repair work has been completed at the Skate Park. The project was very successful, the Skate Park was reopened and the students are enjoying the new surface. The next step is to install new fence fabric on the existing fence poles. Staff are soliciting quotes for this work.

F. New Business.

1. Willard Pool Filter Pumps Installation.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to report on the status of this project. She explained that the filter pumps are being installed and will be operational next week. They are on schedule for the pool opening on June 21.

G. Board Member Comments.

None.

H. Harbor Management Commission.

1. Cove Docks Project.

Chairperson Ragonese discussed the status of the project with board members. Ms. Bagley explained that the town is working with the contractor on all the paperwork for the project including the contract. The Town Attorney is developing the contract for this project. One question that has come up involves the locations of the new moorings in the Cove. Bill Leonard explained that per the Harbor Management Plan the Yacht Club can use 16 moorings as designated on the mooring plan. The Yacht Club is interested in keeping the current mooring tackle that is in the Cove and not use the new mooring tackle that the town will purchase as part of this project. Ms. Bagley provided information from the Harbormaster for this issue. Further discussion ensued on how best to identify the mooring locations for the new mooring tackle and what fees should be paid by the Yacht Club members who are non-residents. It was agreed to have the Yacht Club continue to use their mooring tackle in their current locations and to place the new mooring tackle in locations not identified for Yacht Club use. The discussion on fees will be incorporated into the Park Board's plan to evaluate all the boating fees after the installation of the new docks. All members concurred with this decision.

2. Harbormaster Report.

Chairperson Ragonese reviewed the Harbormaster report with members. Ms. Bagley reported that the loan of a boat from MDC is not going to happen. She has asked Physical Services to evaluate the current boat and see if it can be made available for this boating season. She will be working with the Harbormaster to determine if the boat is safe for use this season. A request has been made to the Fire Department for their assistance in testing the moorings for this season. Staff will continue to request assistance from the Fire Department for other tasks if necessary.

I. Motion to Adjourn.

Bill Leonard moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Motion was seconded by Richard Lepore and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director